

BuViews®

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A Professional Newsletter

April 1987

BuViews' First Edition (1)

BuViews has been sent to former FBI Agents, FBIHQ and each Bureau field office for your consideration. It will be published monthly, and its purpose is to keep current and former employees advised of important matters facing the FBI today, and to provide you with a voice to shape public policy. This publication will review press articles from around the nation; follow Congressional legislation concerning the Bureau; print articles from men and women in and out of the Bureau; and present an editorial dealing with a significant issue facing the Bureau. *BuViews* is published to further the aims of the FBI and to assist this fine organization wherever possible. The Bureau has touched all of us, at least to some degree, and it will always remain an important part of our lives.

BuViews Publisher (2)

BuViews is edited and published

It is with a great sense of pride that *BuViews* is presented to you for consideration. It has been established to create a professional publication for FBI employees. It is intended to increase communication between current and former Bureau employees.

A vast resource exists in the former agents network--a resource that can be of even greater assistance to the Bureau than in the past.

Participate! Make *BuViews* a publication that will satisfy a need that has existed for some time.

Congressional Study Slams U.S.'s FCI (3)

A recent report issued by the House Intelligence Committee states that the FCI capability of this country is sorely lacking. A recent *New York Times* article states that

"although 27 Americans have been charged with espionage during the past two years, there still appears to be a nonchalant attitude toward recent espionage cases on the part of some senior U.S. Intelligence officials." This article points to steps taken by the Reagan Administration to overhaul the counter-intelligence effort in this country, subsequent to the unmasking of the Walker-Whitworth espionage case. However, the Committee still found "manifest failures" in the system.

The following key findings were included in the study, prepared by the House Intelligence Committee:

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U.S. FCI Slammed (cont. from p.1)

1. "Senior managers of U.S. intelligence agencies have downplayed the seriousness of counterintelligence and security failures, and have not taken adequate measures to correct deficiencies."

2. "Dangerous laxity exists in the communications and computer security practices of many federal agencies."

3. "Background investigations of people being considered for sensitive positions are so superficial that they 'often do not discover alcohol, drug and financial problems.' Intelligence agencies display 'a disturbing lack of judgement' in their hiring practices."

4. "Intelligence officials view employees who have passed polygraph examinations as 'an elite of unquestionably loyal employees,' even though in recent years, several foreign spies have 'successfully passed Central Intelligence Agency polygraph exams.'"

5. "Even when espionage is suspected, the various intelligence agencies, such as the CIA and the National Security Agency fail to cooperate with each other to limit damage."

6. "Too many people are given clearance to see confidential information, and then they are allowed to see far more sensitive information than they actually need

to carry out their jobs."

7. "Once an employee is cleared to handle confidential information, the employee is seldom rechecked to see whether circumstances have changed."

Of primary concern to the committee was the Edward Lee Howard case, which involved the former CIA officer who defected to the Soviet Union. The committee was distressed by the numerous errors made in this case by both the CIA and the FBI. Mentioned was the fact that Howard should never have been hired by the CIA because of his history of alcohol and drug problems. This error was compounded when he was provided with significant classified information before his "probationary period" had been completed. Finally, the committee pointed to the FBI surveillance that failed to note Howard's departure from his home, which ultimately led to his defection to the Soviet Union.

Finally, the report stated "Any one of the weaknesses identified by the committee, taken alone, would be of concern. What has emerged is a pattern that causes deep dismay about the way U.S. intelligence is managed."

The editor of *BuViews*,

comments on the Congress-

sional report in the editorial section of this edition of *BuViews*.

***Insight* Lauds FBI (4)**

In a February 16, 1987 article concerning the FBI, *Insight* magazine referred to the changes that have occurred in the FBI since the days of J. Edgar Hoover. The article reminds us of the blows dealt to the Bureau by the Congress and the media in the 1970's. It describes the "new Bureau" as "low-key..., larger and more powerful..., and as an agency that "has set its sights higher and affects the lives of U.S. citizens more profoundly than at any other time in its 79-year history."

The article describes how the mission of the Bureau has changed dramatically from its early years, "stanching the traffic of illegal drugs, busting organized crime, thwarting terrorists and snaring spies by utilizing a vast network of computers and laser beams, burgeoning undercover operations and electronic surveillances."

Interesting figures are provided concerning the budget of the FBI, which has more than doubled from 1978, when Director Webster took the reins, to \$1.2 billion in 1987. At the same time, the number of Special Agents

Insight Lauds FBI (cont. from p. 2)

has increased from 7,800 in 1980 to 9,100 in 1987.

This article goes on to point out that with the installation of Judge William Webster as Director, the mission of the Bureau has markedly changed. Whereas in the past, when the Bureau centered its activities on individual criminals--"the free-lance crooks, such as Dillinger"--"the New FBI" is focusing its attention on what Judge Webster has termed the "criminal enterprise." The days of Special Agents working 20 cases has changed in many cases to, what this article refers to as an "unprecedented task force approach to solving crime," with agents working alongside U.S. Attorney offices, IRS, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement officials--with each agency offering its specific expertise. The result has been increased arrests and convictions that "reach higher up in the criminal world than ever before."

However, this shift to quality cases has caused concern that many of the previous "bread and butter" cases of the FBI, eg. general crimes against individuals, property and government, are being neglected. There is also increasing concern that this shift in emphasis has resulted in a greater use of electronic surveillance, rather

than labor-intensive investigations (interviews, development of assets, etc.). According to this article, FBI wiretaps increased from 326 in 1977-80 to 733 in 1981-84. Another concern is that undercover operations place FBI Agents in situations that are fraught with temptation. In 1986, "the Bureau had approximately 100 undercover operations underway, twice the number a decade ago." Also, the Bureau is spending more than tenfold what it did in 1978 on these operations.

This article cites criticism of Director Webster by some in the field, who state that generally, "There is a malaise in the field, a feeling that we have no leadership." Still

another accuses, "Webster is rarely in the office. He's an absentee landlord." This article goes on to state, however, that the Director "is very much in charge of policy." Further, "Webster's FBI has recovered remarkably from the damage inflicted on the Bureau by an overzealous Congress and scandal-hungry media in the mid-1970's. It has become once again a confident and vigorous national police force." According to Tom Hughes, who handled Congressional Affairs for the Bureau and who is currently an SAC, "If there is one thing Webster has brought to the Bureau, it is integrity."

Judge Webster is quoted in this article as stating, "We

Editorial (5)

As stated in the above article concerning Congress' slam at this country's foreign counterintelligence (FCI) effort, the publisher of *BuViews* makes the following observations.

As John Barron wrote in his most recent book on the KGB (*KGB Today--The Hidden Hand*), "Certain vulnerabilities of democracies cannot be eliminated without unacceptable abridgement of the freedom that is the essence, strength and purpose of democracy" (p. 355). The fact that American counterintelligence forces are, at best, numbered in the few thousands, compared to the hundreds of thousands of officers and agents of the KGB is witness to a vulnerability within our democracy. We as a nation have opted to deter Soviet intelligence activities within this country with the handful of hard-working, courageous,

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Insight Lauds FBI (cont. from p.3)

have built up enough confidence from the Congress and the American people that we are doing things lawfully. I sense that we are getting the kind of cooperation from the American people that comes to an agency they trust... We are supposed to be accountable and we are."

The Judge's statements are supported by unprecedented achievements in all areas of the Bureau's work. "The FBI is now winning its far-reaching war against organized crime, from the Sicilian Mafia in the Northeast to outlaw motorcycle gangs in the South and West to secret Oriental societies in California." In 1986, the U.S. government obtained about 3,400 indictments on organized crime figures (as compared to 900 ten years ago). This includes such notables as the "heads of the Genovese, Colombo and Lucchese crime families in New York." In 1987, the Bureau "will take aim at the labor racketeering," which is influenced by organized crime.

The Bureau's achievements in the "white-collar crime" area are also noteworthy. During 1985, 19% of the Bureau's Agent personnel was used in this area. "That accounted for 35 percent of the convictions obtained by all FBI investigations last year and prevented potential econ-

omic losses of \$556 million." Fraud against the government in excess of \$25,000 is the Bureau's major classification in this area.

The FBI's FCI responsibilities have also met with significant achievement. As mentioned above, in the last two years alone, the Bureau has charged 27 Americans with espionage. This says nothing of the number of individuals unmasked in their efforts to establish espionage operations with hostile intelligence services. Some of them will go uncharged, because of security considerations; however, they are neutralized to such a degree as to no longer pose a threat to the national security.

"Success in the FBI's newest challenge, the move into drug enforcement, has proved more elusive than gains against organized and white-collar crime." This is certainly attributable to the tenure of the Bureau in this area, having entered into partnership with DEA in 1982. Yet, progress is being made in this area. "For fiscal 1986, the administration (DEA) seized \$373 million in assets, compared with an annual budget of \$363 million." But, problems exist in the relationship between the Bureau and DEA. According to the *Insight* article, one Bureau official stated, "I

think it has turned out not to work very well. I think both agencies would be better off if we split again." An inter-agency rivalry has developed; however, "others, including Judge Webster, believe it is too early to assess." Certainly, some measure of cooperation will have to be achieved. The drug problem

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Editor and Publisher

is the major crime problem in this country today.

In October 1986, the Bureau issued its first comprehensive plan to fight the narcotics problem in this country. "The strategy specifically targets cocaine and heroin importation and distribution by Colombian traffickers, who together made more than \$6 billion last year..."

(This article will be continued in the next edition of *BuViews*, including further information concerning the Bureau's work in the drug area. Also included will be a look at changes in the Bureau's technology, and those factors that have dramatically changed the complexion of the FBI today.)

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Director Webster Named to Run CIA

Judge Webster to CIA (12)

"Judge" William Webster, who has been Director of the FBI for approximately nine years was recently nominated by President Reagan to head up the CIA. With his departure an era ends--an era that was marked by the reestablishment of the FBI as one of the preeminent law-enforcement agencies in the world.

The Judge has been described in the press and media as re-establishing stability in the Bureau. During the difficult times the Bureau experienced, the Judge helped restore the reputation the Bureau enjoyed in the past. For this we owe him our deepest gratitude.

As the Judge departs the FBI, we all wish him well. He is to take control of the CIA, which is no easy task. The Bureau and the Agency have had their problems in the past. With the installment of Judge Webster at the helm of the Agency, this relationship may now look to the future with optimism.

Judge, Good Luck!

The Maiden Voyage (13)

One very important point must be made as this first edition of *BuViews* is "put to bed," i.e. this edition has only a sample of the types of

articles that will be published in the future. This edition does not include your articles.

There may be some question concerning the type of articles that would be suitable for this newsletter. The answer is simple, whatever you think is important. It may be a legislative issue, a management issue, a personnel matter, or even an interesting case that may not have received wide publicity, but would be of interest to everyone. You be the judge. Remember, as previously stated, *BuViews* is intended to keep people informed, and to offer you a voice in tough issues facing the Bureau today.

This newsletter is an all-Bureau publication. Important issues in both the Special Agent and support areas are of interest. After all, it takes the full effort of both to get the job done.

Well, after a couple of very busy months learning how to put a newsletter together on the computer, arduously preparing it (right down to the several thousand address labels), and the expenditure of significant financial resources to get this publication to you, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for taking the time to read *BuViews*. Your comments are welcomed. Thank you very much.

Attributions (14)

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Article #8: The Mafia--Not Typical Italians: from "The Mafia Mystique," by Mr. Joseph Jordano *US News & World Report*, 2/16/87. Permission granted by *U.S. News & World Report* and by Mr. Jordano, Director of Center on Ethnicity & Communication, New York City.

Article #9 Urban Murder Increasing: from "Urban Murders: On the Rise," *Newsweek*, 2/9/87. Permission from [redacted]

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Article #11 Spies and Sex: from "The Swinging Spies," *Washingtonian*, February 1987. Permission obtained from [redacted] of the *Washingtonian*.

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FBI Accused of Illegal Break-ins

Former Asset Claims Foul (6)

Former FBI informant, Frank Varelli, testifying before a House Judiciary Committee, stated the FBI in its investigation of the CISPES organization, committed acts outside of its mandated authority. According to a *Washington Post* article, Varelli "told how the FBI waged a three-year effort to 'break' a group opposed to US policy in Central America, including infiltrating its ranks, burglarizing its office in Dallas and passing information about it to its enemies in El Salvador." Varelli stated he never witnessed any illegal acts conducted by the CISPES, which he described as "peaceful..., devoted to changing policies of the US toward Central America."

However, his testimony began to deteriorate "with disclosure at the hearing of a report Varelli circulated last year charging that the CISPES group was linked to the Soviet KGB and that some members had plotted to kill President Reagan."

Varelli, a native of El Salvador was recruited by the FBI as an informant in March 1981. According to the *Washington Post* article, he was to be the "star witness in a two-day hearing into allegations that the FBI

and other government agencies were behind a rash of mysterious break-ins at offices of sanctuary churches and other groups critical of U.S. policy in Central America."

Rep. Don Edwards, (D-San Jose), chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights was quoted as stating, "He (Varelli) has some credibility problems...But that doesn't mean we're not going to complete the job."

At the same time, Executive Assistant Director, "Buck" Revell, who also testified before the House Committee, "categorically denied the FBI conducted illegal warrantless break-ins of any of the groups," claiming further that "substantial portions" of Varelli's story were "not true."

Mafia Gets Major Sentences (7)

A recent editorial in the *New York Daily News* discusses the 100-year prison term and the one quarter-million dollar fine recently imposed by Judge Richard Owen against "Mafia" figures in New York. According to this editorial, the Judge was quoted as stating "A big part of the business of those Families... is killing people, without hesitation or heart."

The Judge also stated that "evidence shows Mafiosi kill with the confidence and casualness with which decent people change toothpaste brands. They do it to control and corrupt labor unions, businesses, law enforcement, (and) politics."

This editorial states that the Mafia operates with impunity, "often earned with terror, (and) with money." But, money and terror did not sway the Judge, the U.S. Attorney's office, or "the dozens of FBI Agents" who worked relentlessly on the case. As the editorial noted, "Bravo" to all of these brave men and women.

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Mafia--Not Typical of Italians

Mafia--Not Typical (8)

According to a *US News & World Report* article the "Mafia" is a multi-ethnic endeavor. FBI figures show that "of the 500,000 people involved in organized crime, only 20,000 are associates of the Mafia network; of these 1,700 are of Italian-American background."

This article describes Italian immigrants arriving at Ellis Island. Unable to read English, they clearly understood the cartoons that depicted them as 'alien hordes'. In 1891 six innocent Italians, suspected of killing a police officer, were lynched in New Orleans. By the 1930's, the "Mafia" was discovered as real, which "confirmed the popular stereotype."

The film industry and T.V. have fostered the "Mafia mystique." The recent movies "Prizzi's Honor" and "Wise Guys," and several T.V. programs (series) confirm this.

The thrust of this article is that we as Americans too often look upon Italian-Americans as in some way "Mafia" connected. "It took a civil-rights movement for blacks to get us to see them as other than "Amos 'n' Andy" characters--and a Holocaust to raise our awareness of the nature of our prejudice toward Jews."

This article concludes with suggestions on ways to accelerate a "new consciousness" toward Italian-Americans, including: the diversion of resources from fighting the Mafia stereotype to "promoting more positive and authentic images; by encouraging young writers and artist to present us as we really are..." But most importantly, according to the author of this article, Joseph Giordano, what must be projected to the American people by the Italian-American community is "the reality of our talent, creativity, and love of life."

Urban Murder Increasing (9)

An article, in a recent edition of *Newsweek*, reveals startling evidence that murder on our city streets is on the increase. It points out that the increase in murder is drug-related, and that cocaine is "the primary culprit."

"In Philadelphia, the annual number of killings had been on the decline, dropping from 436 in 1980 to 273 in 1985." But, in 1986, this figure increased by some 27%. Philadelphia is not alone. In Oakland, California, "Warring dope dealers have turned

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Drug-related Murder on the Rise

a neighborhood into a free-fire zone where gangs of pushers blast each other--and innocent bystanders--with Uzi submachine guns."

According to a Detroit narcotics inspector, the combination of "drugs..., the number of guns in our society..., and the number of young kids in possession of drugs and guns equals an increase in murders."

What are some of the causes of these murders? "Drug dealers kill clients because they are \$20 short on a payment. Dope couriers face summary execution for being a fraction of an ounce light on a delivery." Such reasons point to the explosive nature of drugs, and its dangerous effect on society in general. When one considers that an individual will kill a family member or a friend to get money to feed an addictive drug habit, it is clear that this trend will continue, at least until the drug problem is brought under control.

If there is any doubt concerning the above conclusions, one need only consider the alarming increase of teenage murders. This is especially true among black youths. In Detroit last year, the number of murders escalated to 646, the highest level since 1976.

A real dilemma is the problem of solving drug-related

murders. "Dealers have been known to lug bodies from one city to another to confuse the police... Another problem is finding witnesses. In some cases, members of the victim's family hold back evidence out of fear."

Even more problematical is that there is no solution in sight. This *Newsweek* article suggests "the best solution may be to address the larger problem of drug abuse." It goes on to point out that, although last year the President signed a bill to provide drug education and drug assistance to state and local drug law-enforcement agencies, this year's budget may be cut.

Is this article accurate in its assessment concerning how the drug problem should be handled? This question provides an excellent opportunity for you to write an article for *BuViews*.

This *Newsweek* article concludes with a graphic representation, setting forth "American Homicides," comparing the number of murders in major U.S. cities from 1985-86:

New York--1,384 to 1,461
Los Angeles--777 to 820
Chicago--666 to 744
Detroit--635 to 646
Houston--457 to 435
Dallas--301 to 348
Philadelphia--273 to 346
Washington--147 to 196
San Antonio--180 to 184

Miami--131 to 161
Phoenix--89 to 127
San Francisco--85 to 114
San Diego--96 to 111
Boston--87 to 106

**Submit articles
for publication
(10)**

As mentioned, *BuViews* offers you a means to respond to important issues facing the Bureau today. As in the above article, concerning the drug problem in this country, your comments are important, since the FBI is now very much involved in the drug war. Write your ideas to *BuViews*. This publication is reaching members of Congress. In this way, you can personally be involved in the making of public policy. Your submission should be limited to 500 words or less. Fifty dollars (\$50.00) will be paid for articles published in *BuViews*. If you prefer your name not be used, please so advise, and it will be omitted. Articles are not returned.

Each of us, in and out of the Bureau, carry a great sense of pride in the FBI. It is not a perfect organization, but then neither is any other man-made institution. If we can improve it to any degree by opening lines of communication, we should attempt to do so.

Spies & Sex--Karl & Hana Koecher

Spies and Sex (11)

A recent article in the *Washingtonian* describes the work of the Czech Intelligence "husband-and-wife spy team," Karl and Hana Koecher. Although unnoticed by many, Karl was the first East-bloc intelligence officer to penetrate the CIA. The Koechers were also a critical ingredient in the US-Soviet trade that allowed Anatoliy Sharansky to leave the Soviet Union.

The Koechers were highly successful Soviet-bloc spies. Karl became a "Mole" in the CIA, and with the assistance of his wife, he provided Eastern-bloc intelligence services with classified documents, and the names of CIA agents abroad. U.S. intelligence officials are concerned that information given up by the Koechers may have caused the death of a Soviet recruitment-in-place, who was providing the CIA with information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow.

A bizarre aspect of this operation was the manner in which Karl and Hana Koecher obtained information. As this article describes, they gave the spy business "a new twist." In both New York and in Washington, Karl and his wife

were avid sex swingers, frequenting parties and clubs where couples were involved in sex swapping. "Among the Koechers 'fellow swingers' were other **senior CIA employees**" (emphasis added). But this was not all. In a rented Fairfax home, called the "Virginia In-Place," the Koechers found others who could be helpful to their spy operation. According to people who attended these parties 12 years ago, party guest lists included "**a prominent US senator, an assistant secretary of Commerce, a GS-16 from the Smithsonian Institution, and reporters from the Washington Post, and the New York Times**" (emphasis added). It was through these activities that Karl obtained a position with the CIA.

This article states that in 1982, the FBI began its investigation, probably based on information from an "East-bloc defector." It soon became evident that the Bureau was dealing with "sleepers," agents dispatched abroad by the Soviet-bloc intelligence services to obtain positions in agencies handling sensitive classified information. Karl Koecher obtained employment with the CIA in 1973, working in the "AE Section." He was involved in the translation of conversations in the Russian and Czech languages,

which were routinely collected by the Agency. Additionally, according to the FBI, Koecher wrote personality assessments on individuals involved in these conversations. Everything Koecher did for the Agency was classified. At one point, he was tasked to do an assessment on a Soviet, Aleksander Ogorodnik. According to John Barron's book, *KGB Today*, Ogorodnik was recruited by the CIA in 1974. But, in 1977, the KGB found they had a penetration in their foreign office, who was providing significant information to the U.S. government--information that reached the highest levels of our government. According to this article, the FBI and CIA suspected Koecher of compromising Ogorodnik.

In 1975, Karl left his position with the CIA, and returned to New York, working for the Agency on a contract basis. He did this for two years, cutting all ties with the CIA in 1977.

Karl Koecher and his wife were arrested in November 1984. There was no trial, prior to their departure from the United States, which involved their trade, as cited above, for Soviet dissident Anatoliy Sharansky. Little more is known about them, outside of US intelligence agencies.

Editorial (cont. from p. 3)

(Editorial--cont. from p. 3)
and devoted men and women in the FBI, with help from other government entities.

The criticism levied on this country's FCI effort by the Congress has merit and should be viewed as a continuation of our democratic system; however, for our system to work well, politics must be left out of the intelligence/counterintelligence mission of government. This is not to say that this Congressional criticism of our FCI mission has political overtones; however, this author finds it curious that the Congress omitted some very important issues in its comment.

There may be, as suggested by Congress, a "downplay" of the FCI mission by some in leadership positions in government, by virtue of their lack of understanding of FCI's extremely complex nature. There is certainly some laxity in communications and computer security in agencies. Intelligence agencies could increase efficiency in their polygraph and screening of employees--especially CIA and NSA, both of which have experienced significant problems in these areas, evidenced by the Howard, Chin and Pelton cases. Certainly, coordination between agencies must be improved, and security tightened within the ranks of these government

entities.

However, why has the Congress opted not to deal with some of the more significant issues relating to the FCI of the United States, including, to name just a few: (1) The problems agencies have attempting to dismiss an employee who has been determined, subsequent to his first year on probation, to lack the qualities necessary to an effective FCI agent/employee. One need only consider the Richard Miller and Jonathan Pollard cases. Miller, a 20-year FBI agent in Los Angeles, was a pathetic dolt. Yet he continued to work in sensitive areas. Pollard exhibited strange behavior in 1981, which resulted in the temporary loss of his clearance, which he later reclaimed. (2) The paucity of man-power to provide the types of surveillance, necessary to cover known and suspected hostile intelligence personnel and their contacts. Many of the recently convicted spies made direct contact with hostile intelligence at diplomatic establishments. (3) The reluctance of many in both the Executive and Legislative branches to employ new and innovative counterintelligence techniques, under the guise of infringement of privacy. There are means available to the government to assist in this area-- means that heretofore have been

employed, but are now disregarded. People understand that any contact with a diplomatic establishment of a hostile nation in the U.S. (as well as in most countries in the world) is closely scrutinized by counterintelligence agencies. Those people who are on legitimate business understand and expect such coverage. Why then do we not insist on utilizing every technique possible to increase our vigilance? Why are some forms of coverage acceptable and yet others not considered? (4) The quality of background investigations on employees working in sensitive areas, (eg. employees of defense contractors) is, in many cases, poor. Yet in the cited example, the Defense Investigative Service is not provided with sufficient funds to do its job properly.

These few examples of issues with which Congress should deal are of major consequence to our FCI effort. Granted, they are fraught with political peril, often requiring changes in the law. However, those who serve in government do so to the betterment of what government does, not to the betterment of themselves. Thus, as Congress takes aim at Executive agencies responsible for FCI, it should also be introspective to ensure it is doing its job effectively.